

SENSITIVE

PAGE 386

SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 221859Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 105

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~ EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD WH32642

TOHAK 105

MORI PER
C03341330

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

CONTAINS CODEWORD

OCTOBER 22, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: THE ISRAELI BRIDGEHEAD ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL IS STILL SOME 19 MILES DEEP AND EXTENDS 25 MILES ALONG THE CANAL FROM NEAR ISMAILIA IN THE NORTH TO THE SOUTHERN END OF THE GREAT BITTER LAKE, ACCORDING TO TEL AVIV. SOME EGYPTIAN UNITS CONTINUE TO FIGHT WITHIN THAT AREA, BUT ISRAELI FORCES ESSENTIALLY CONTROL IT. ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS CONTINUED ALONG BOTH BANKS OF THE CANAL THROUGH THE MORNING, WITH NO RESISTANCE FROM EGYPTIAN FIGHTERS.

ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, ISRAELI FORCES HAVE RETAKEN SYRIAN POSITIONS ON MOUNT HERMON THIS MORNING. THE ISRAELIS ARE PREPARING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ON THE MOUNTAIN, WHICH DOMINATES THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON.

25X1

THE PACE OF THE SOVIET ARMS AIRLIFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUES TO SLACKEN THIS MORNING.

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SECF

PSN:014031

DTG:0221859

TOR:2751903

SENSITIVE

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SENSITIVE

PAGE 387

SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TONAK II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

STATUS OF SYRIAN ELECTRIC POWER: THE ISRAELIS HAVE HIT FOUR ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS IN SYRIA SINCE OCTOBER 10. THE 120,000-KILOWATT PLANT AT HOMS AND THE 45,000-KILOWATT FACILITY IN DAMASCUS, WHICH PROVIDE MORE THAN 45 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S INSTALLED CAPACITY, ARE PRESENTLY INOPERABLE. ELECTRICITY RATIONING IS BEING IMPOSED IN THE CAPITAL CITY. THE OTHER TWO PLANTS, WHICH WERE HIT ON THE 17TH, ARE SMALL PUBLIC UTILITY FACILITIES AT TARTUS AND LATAKIA. THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO THEM IS NOT KNOWN.

25X1

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORDTOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

-2-

25X1

EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN KABUL: AFTER THREE MONTHS IN POWER, THE DAUD REGIME STILL SEEMS COMPELLED TO CONCENTRATE ALMOST ALL OF ITS ENERGIES IN A STRUGGLE TO CONSOLIDATE INTERNAL CONTROL AND TO ESTABLISH GOVERNMENT DOMINANCE OVER ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. THE RESULTANT NEAR PARALYSIS AND DELAYS IN ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING ARE HAVING AN INCREASING EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY. JOCKEYING CONTINUES BETWEEN DAUD AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WITH THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY GAINING IN STRENGTH. LEFTIST ELEMENTS, MOSTLY PARCHAM PARTY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES, HAVE APPEARED IN INCREASING NUMBERS AT WORKING LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND WITH APPARENTLY INCREASED DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. THE FUTURE HAS A LARGE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL INSTABILITY, BUT OVER THE SHORT-TERM

SENSITIVE

SENSITIVE

PAGE 388

SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: TONAK II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

(THE NEXT THREE MONTHS) THE EMBASSY THINKS THE DAUD REGIME WILL REMAIN IN POWER. A CONTINUED SIGNIFICANT U.S. PRESENCE REMAINS A STATED OBJECTIVE OF TOP AFGHANI LEADERS BUT THE LEVEL OF TENSION AND ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING, ESPECIALLY AT THE TOP MIDDLE LEVELS, IS INCREASING AND SOME U.S. PROGRAMS MAY BE SEVERELY CURTAILED.

ROAD IN SOUTHERN LAOS IMPASSABLE: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CLEARED AND GRADED AN ADDITIONAL 25 MILES ON THE PROJECTED DUAL-LANE, ALL-WEATHER ROAD IN SOUTHERN LAOS LAST MONTH, BRINGING THE TOTAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION THERE SINCE MAY TO ABOUT 160 MILES. HOWEVER, TWO TYPHOONS SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER AND ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL HAVE MADE THE ROAD UNUSABLE. [REDACTED] RE-

25X1

PORTED THE ROAD IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION, VERY MUDDY, AND DEEPLY RUTTED. HIGH WATER HAS ALSO MADE MANY FORDS IMPASSABLE. RAINFALL THIS MONTH HAS ALREADY EQUALED THE NORMAL OCTOBER AVERAGE OF EIGHT INCHES, AND ENGINEER UNITS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO OPEN THE ROAD TO HEAVY TRAFFIC BEFORE LATE NOVEMBER. THIS ABNORMALLY LONG RAINY SEASON MAY DELAY ANY NORTH VIETNAMESE PLANS TO TRANSPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUPPLIES THROUGH LAOS BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
 CONTAINS CODEWORD

900

BT

SENSITIVE